

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6 and 7 remain pending in the present application. Claim 1 has been amended. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Postema et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,139,186). In the Advisory Action, the Examiner stated that it was his opinion that Postema et al. meets the limitations of Claim 1 wherein the contiguous inner surface of tube 5 forms an inner wall, a working chamber and a fluid chamber according to the claimed combination.

Claim 1 has been amended to define the closed pressure tube as having an inner cylindrical surface. The piston slidingly engages the inner cylindrical surface, a fluid chamber is defined by the inner cylindrical surface and a valve body which is secure to the inner cylindrical surface. This fluid chamber of Postema et al. is not defined by the inner cylindrical surface of the closed pressure tube when the piston is defined as slidingly engaging the inner cylindrical surface.

Thus, Applicant believes Claim 1, as amended, patentably distinguishes over the art of record. Likewise, Claims 6 and 7 which ultimately depend from claim 1 are also believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

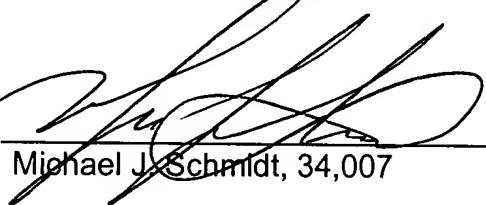
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Ocr 27 2003

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